

**Amendments To The Claims:**

1.     *(Previously Presented)*              Composite material with a polymerisable organic binder and a filler, characterised in that it contains filler particles obtained by spray drying sols and post-curing the particles at 800 – 1200 degrees Celsius, which particles have the shape of a torus and an average external diameter in the region of 0.5-100 µm.
2.     *(Previously Presented)*              Composite material according to claim 1 which additionally contains a silica sol.
3.     *(Previously Presented)*              Composite material according to claim 1, characterised in that polymerisable organic binder and filler are in a quantity of 1 to 90 wt. %.
4.     *(Previously Presented)*              Composite material according to either claim 2, characterised in that the filler contains 50 to 100 wt. % of the filler particles with the shape of a torus.
5.     *(Previously Presented)*              Composite material according to claim 1, characterised in that the filler contains additional fragment-shaped and/or spherical inorganic filler particles.
6.     *(Previously Presented)*              Composite material according to claim 1, characterised in that the filler additionally contains non-torus-shaped filler particles made from silicon dioxide.
7.     *(Previously Presented)*              Composite material according to claim 6, characterised in that the non-torus-shaped filler particles are produced from pyrogenic and/or precipitated silicic acid and/or silicon dioxide sols and/or from a dispersion of pyrogenic and/or precipitated silicic acid.
8.     *(Previously Presented)*              Composite material according to claim 1, characterised in that the torus-shaped and/or non-torus-shaped filler particles are silanized.
9.     *(Previously Presented)*              Composite material according to claim 1, characterised in

that the organic binder includes at least one of the following materials: ethylenically unsaturated monomers and oligomers, epoxides, ormocers, ceramers, liquid crystal systems, spiro-orthoesters, oxethane, polyurethane, polyester, A-silicon and C-silicon, polycarbonic acids.

10. *(Previously Presented)* Composite material according to claim 1, characterised in that the organic binder cures chemically and/or photochemically.

11. *(Previously Presented)* Composite material according to claim 1, characterised in that the torus-shaped filler particles have an average external diameter in the region of 1 and 50  $\mu\text{m}$ .

12. *(Previously Presented)* Composite material according to claim 1, characterised in that the torus-shaped filler particles have an internal diameter in the region of 0.2-20  $\mu\text{m}$ .

13. *(Previously Presented)* Composite material according to claim 12, characterised in that the torus-shaped filler particles have an internal diameter in the region of 0.4-4.0  $\mu\text{m}$ .

14. *(Previously Presented)* Composite material according to claim 1, characterised in that it contains 15-70 wt. % filler with torus-shaped filler particles.

15. *(Previously Presented)* Composite material according to claim 1, characterised in that the filler particles contain silicon dioxide and/or heavy metal oxides with an atomic number of greater than 28.

16. *(Previously Presented)* Composite material according to claim 15, characterised in that the heavy metal oxides are selected from the group of zirconium oxide, cerioxide, tin oxide, zinc oxide, yttrium oxide, strontium oxide, barium oxide, lanthanum oxide, bismuth oxide and compounds thereof.

17. *(Previously Presented)* Dental composite material according to claim 1.

18. *(Previously Presented)* A method of filling teeth comprising the steps of:

- 1) providing polymerisable composite material with a polymerisable organic binder and a filler, characterised in that it contains filler particles obtained by spray drying sols and post-curing the particles at 800 – 1200 degrees Celsius, which particles have the shape of a torus and an average external diameter in the region of 0.5-100 µm and
- 2) filling cavities in teeth with the material.

Please add the following new claim:

19. (New) Composite material with a polymerisable organic binder and a filler, characterized in that it contains filler particles obtained by spray drying sols, which particles have the shape of a torus, a smooth (alternatively non-porous) surface and an average external diameter in the region of 0.5 to 200 µm.
20. (New) Composite material with a polymerisable organic binder and a filler, characterized in that it contains filler particles obtained by spray drying sols, which particles have the shape of a torus, a non-porous surface and an average external diameter in the region of 0.5 to 200 µm.